

**REMARKS**

The independent claims are revised to make clear that activation of the privacy option removes personal information from an electronic document without deleting the document. Claims 1-26 remain in this application, with no claim previously indicated as being allowable.

Claims 1-6, 9-14, 16-21 and 23-26 are rejected as anticipated by *Grady* (US 2001/0056463 A1). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The present invention concerns a method for removing personal information from an electronic document produced by a document-generating application. For example, the name of the person identified when installing the document-generating application, or other pieces of personal information, may be automatically added to a document created by that application. The document-generating application may also add personal information to the document whenever one edits or adds a comment to the document. Heretofore, there was no way to remove the author's name from the comment or to remove other personal information from the document, other than by deleting the names or other personal information from the individual comments or editorial changes, or from a file properties dialog associated with the electronic document.

The present invention, as disclosed in the exemplary embodiments and as claimed herein, provides a method of easily removing an author's or user's personal information associated with the document created by a document-generating application. This method comprises activating a privacy option which, when activated, removes personal information from a document and, as recited in some claims, replaces the user information with generic information. The privacy option may be used to remove

personal information from a document once that document is saved by the application, or once the privacy option is activated for a given document. The privacy option may also be used to make inaccessible any personal information associated with the document.

Claim 1 defines a method for removing personal information from a first electronic document produced by a document generating application. This method comprises activating a privacy option provided by that document-generating application, wherein activation of the privacy option enables removal of one or more pieces of personal information from the first document. Activating the privacy option does not delete the document itself, which would defeat the purpose of the invention.

The rejection of Claim 1 et al. asserts that *Grady* discloses the claimed method, including the step of "activating a privacy option...". However, that reference is not concerned with a document-generating application, nor with any method for removing personal information from an electronic document, and the reference fails to disclose either providing or activating a privacy option that enables removal of personal information from that document. That reference relates to creating and transmitting electronic links to electronic document that, in turn, relate to physical documents. Those links aid later retrieval and manipulation of the electronic documents, thus doing away with the need for maintaining large paper files to store paper documents by replacing them with electronic versions (paragraph 0007). However, that reference does not disclose any method - short of deleting entire documents- for removing personal information from an electronic document produced by a document-generating application, and in particular does not disclose the step of activating a privacy option provided by such an application.

The rejection asserts that paragraph 0089 of *Grady* discloses a method for removing personal information from a first electronic document by "activating a privacy option", which the Examiner finds in "user account log-in" described at line 3 of paragraph 0089. That paragraph does not disclose a privacy option and, accordingly, does not disclose activating any such option. Instead, paragraph 0089 and Fig. 11 of *Grady* merely show a web browser window displaying a user's account log-in window. Neither that paragraph nor Fig. 11 mention a "privacy option" or activating a privacy option, in word or in deed.

The rejection further asserts that activation of the "privacy option" in *Grady* enables removal of one or more pieces of personal information from a "first document", said to be disclosed in paragraph 0097 as having "privacy option 226" which enables "deleting a personal information 222" from the web page shown in Fig. 11. However, those asserted teachings simply are missing from *Grady*. As discussed above, that reference does not disclose a privacy option. Paragraph 0097 merely states that the check box 224 shown in Fig. 11 may be checked to select an electronic document, and that document may be deleted by the "Delete" link 226 or moved by the "Move" link 228. However, moving or deleting an entire document does not anticipate the step of removal of one or more pieces of personal information from the first document without deleting the document. Furthermore, moving or deleting an entire document does not anticipate the step of "activating a privacy option" as that step finds meaning in the teachings of the present Applicants.

Lastly, the rejection of Claims 1 et al. as anticipated by *Grady* asserts that paragraph 0101 anticipates the step of enabling deleting personal information. That

paragraph, however, states only that "users may be able to change of [*sic.*] the personal information, such as information provided during the sign-up process". In other words, paragraph 0101 of *Grady* discloses that users of an on-line service may change passwords, e-mail addresses, and the like associated with the system. However, that selection from *Grady* does not teach or anticipate removing one or more pieces of personal information from a first electronic document produced by a document-generating application. Even if the web page shown in Fig. 11 of *Grady* were considered "a first electronic document produced by a document-generating application", *Grady* at best merely teaches the piece-meal editing of information on a line-by-line basis on that web page. The need for such piece-meal removal of information is what the present Applicants have overcome, in the disclosed context of an electronic document produced by a document-generating application, by providing and enabling a privacy option that enables removal of personal information from that document.

For the foregoing reasons, *Grady* fails to anticipate Claim 1 or the claims depending therefrom.

Claim 4 depends from Claim 1 and defines the step of removing personal information from the first document as comprising replacing that information with generic information. The rejection purports find this teaching in lines 15-16 of paragraph 0092 in *Grady*. However, that passage merely discusses the "Rename a Folder" function shown in Fig. 13 of *Grady*. Changing the name of a folder is not the removal of one or more pieces of personal information from a first document, and does not comprise "replacing the one or more pieces of personal information with generic information". The rejection asserts that a string of letters, numbers, symbols, spaces, or combination

thereof is "the generic information" but no support for that proposition appears in the reference. Moreover, even if *Grady* were to rename a folder as "folder", that action does not overcome the above-mentioned deficiencies of *Grady* as anticipating the steps set forth in parent Claim 1.

Dependent Claim 6 calls activation of the privacy option removes one or more pieces of personal information from the first document. The rejection asserts that paragraph 0097 of *Grady* discloses a privacy option link 226 which deletes the personal information link 222 from the document of Fig. 11. However, the link 226 is merely the "Delete" function for deleting an entire electronic document, not for removing one or more pieces of personal information from a first document without deleting the document. Claim 6 thus is novel over *Grady* for that additional reason.

Claim 11, although styled as "dependent Claim 11" in the rejection, is an *independent* claim. That claim defines a method comprising the steps of receiving input of one or more pieces of personal information in response to a request for such information from a document-generating application, and receiving input to active a privacy option for the document. Activation of the privacy option enables removal of the pieces of personal information from that document, without deleting the document. Once again, *Grady* fails to anticipate this method or the particular steps comprising the method recited by Claim 11. Namely, that reference fails to disclose a privacy option and therefore, cannot anticipate "receiving input to activate a privacy option for the document". Paragraphs 0091 and 0097 merely discuss deleting files, not removing pieces of personal information from the document without deleting the document. *Grady* thus fails to anticipate Claim 11 or the claims depending therefrom.

Likewise, *Grady* fails to anticipate Claims 13-15, which call for replacing the one or more pieces of personal information with generic information. Please see the above discussion with respect to that added method step.

Dependent Claim 16 adds the further step of receiving input to enter one or more pieces of new personal information into the document after activation of the privacy option. That claim further recites certain conditions under which the pieces of new personal information are removed from the document or replaced with generic information. *Grady* simply fails to anticipated a method including the specific added steps recited by Claim 16.

Turing to Claim 19 (also misdescribed as "dependent" in the rejection), that claim defines a computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method comprising the step of activating a privacy option provided by the instructions. Activation of that privacy option enables removable of one or more pieces of personal information from the document without deleting the document. For the reasons discussed above, *Grady* fails to anticipate a medium for performing the method defines in Claim 19.

Claim 21 likewise, defines a method comprising the steps of providing a privacy option, and receiving input to activate the privacy option for removing one or more pieces of personal information from a document, or replacing that personal information with generic information, without deleting the document. Again, nothing in *Grady* anticipates a method including the specific steps recited by Claim 21. Accordingly, that claim and the claims depending therefrom are novel over *Grady*.

Claims 7, 8, 15, and 22 are rejected as unpatentable over *Grady*, identified in that rejection as U.S. Patent No. 6,275,824. However, that number identifies the O'Flaherty patent, identified in paragraph 6 of the Office Action as prior art made of record and not relied upon. From the discussion of the obviousness rejection at paragraph 5, it appears the Examiner intended to base that rejection on the aforementioned *Grady* reference, and not on O'Flaherty. This rejection, as thus understood, is traversed.

Claim 7, which depends from Claim 2, defines the step of saving the first document as removing one or more pieces of personal information from that document when the document is saved. The rejection on *Grady* asserts that it would have been obvious to utilize the "save function" found on well-known document application software such as Microsoft Word, to save the removed or changed information from the saved document. However, this argument overlooks a basic failure of *Grady* as a reference teaching the overall method of Claim 7, including the steps in parent Claim 1. Namely, and as discussed above, that reference is not at all concerned with a method for removing personal information from an electronic document, and neither discloses nor activates a privacy option provided by that application to enable removal of personal information from the first document without deleting that document. *Grady* does not address the problem confronted and solved by the Applicants according to the present invention, namely, removing personal information from an electronic document without needing to piece-meal locate and edit every instance of personal information present in that document. It is, therefore, understandable that one of ordinary skill, lacking an understanding of that problem as well as the Applicant's disclosed and claimed solution

to the problem, would not have found it obvious to provide a method as set forth in Claim 7.

Claim 8 defines a method for removing personal information from a *second electronic document*, comprising the step of creating a template of the second document from the *first document* produced by the method of Claim 1. The rejection of this claim asserts that the "Save as" function, used on well-known document application software, would have allowed one of ordinary skill to generate the second template document. With due respect, this rejection is speculative and not based on any teaching in *Grady*. Moreover, and fundamentally, *Grady* fails to teach or suggest the method set forth in parent claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 8 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, based on that reference.

Claim 15 depends from Claim 11 and defines the step of saving the document as removing the personal information from that document or replacing that personal information with generic information. Claim 22 depends from independent Claim 21, which includes a similar method, step limitation. Because *Grady* fails to address the basic problem confronted by the Applicants and solved according to the present invention, these dependent claims are define methods that one of ordinary skill would not have found obvious from that reference.

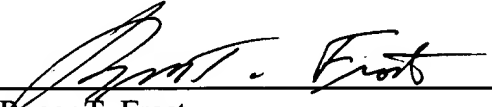


The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. The Applicants submit that all claims of this application are novel and patentable over the art of record and request a Notice of Allowance to those claims.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD

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